

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 282025Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1339

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 3662

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AR, BR, US

SUBJ: ARGENTINE-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS

REF: BA 3625

1. ARGENTINA RESENTED BRAZIL'S EFFORTS TO BLOCK ORFILA'S ELECTION TO SECRETARY GENERALSHIP OF OAS, AND RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES MAY SUFFER FURTHER AS A RESULT.

2. TWO HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY TOLD AMB HILL ON MAY 22 THAT THEY CONSIDERED GOB'S POSITION ON ELECTION OF ORFILA UNWARRANTED AND NOT GROUNDED ON HISTORICAL PRECEDENT (SEE REFTEL). FOLLOWING DAY MAY 23, WHEN AMB HILL MET FONMIN VIGNES AT AIRPORT UPON LATTER'S RETURN FROM US, ONE OF VIGNES TOP ADVISORS, AMB PULIT, COMMENTED TO HIM IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION THAT NOTHING BRAZIL HAS DONE IN RECENT YEARS HAD SO OFFENDED ARGENTINA AS ITS EFFORTS TO PREVENT ORFILA FROM GETTING THE SECRETARY GENERALSHIP. ACCORDING TO PULIT, ARGENTINA IS CONVINCED THAT HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR BRAZILIAN LOBBYING AMONG CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES, ORFILA WOULD HAVE WON EASILY ONCE SAPENA PASTOR STEPPED ASIDE. BRAZIL, THEREFORE, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROLONGED IMPASSE WHICH HAD BEEN DETRIMENTAL TO THE HEMISPHERIC

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SYSTEM AND EMBARRASSING TO ARGENTINA.

3. SEVERAL ARGENTINES ATTENDING DINNER AT US EMBASSY RESIDENT ON MAY 22 WERE ALSO SHARP IN THEIR CRITICISM OF BRAZILS POSTION. (BRAZILIAN AMBASSADORS WIFE, ON OTHER HAND, WAS AS USUAL, LOUD WITH HER PJORATIVES CONCERNING ARGENTINA AND THE ARGENTINES).

4. COMMENT: ARGENTINE RESENTMENT OVER GOBS POSITION AT THE OAS/GA MAY PROVE OF LITTLE TANGIBLE CONSEQUENCE. AS ONE LOWER RANKING FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL PUT IT: "THIS WILL SIMPLY ADD TO THE DEEP SUSPICIONS MOST ARGENTINES ALREADY HAVE OF BRAZIL, IT WILL NOT, HOWEVER RESULT IN ANY SHARP CHANGE OF POLICY OR ACT OF RETALIATION". BRAZILIAN EMBASSY OFFICERS HERE HAVE BEEN SAYING FOR SOME TIME THAT THE PERIOD OF THAW BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTREIS ENDED MONTHS AGO WHEN IT BECAME CLEAR TO BOTH THAT NO QUICK AND HAPPY AGREEMENT ON UTILIZATION OF REIVER SYSTEMS IS POSSIBLE. HENCE RATHER THAN A TURNING POINT, GOB EFFORTS TO BLOCK ORFILA WILL LIKELY SIMPLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE ALREADY DOWNWARD TREND IN RELATIONS.
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